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MALGAIGNE'S OPERATIVE SURGERY,

SIXTEEN PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Abstract of the Minutes of the Third Meeting of the American Medical Association, held in the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, May, 1850.—The Association assembled in College Hall, May 7th, 1850, at 10½ o'clock, A. M., the President, Dr. J. C. Warren, in the chair.

The committee of arrangements reported a list of delegates who had registered their names.

The session was then opened by an address from the President.

On motion of Dr. Watson, the constitution was read.

Drs. Drake, Rives, Lawson, Dodge, Strader, and Richards, appointed last year on the committee of arrangements, but who were not members of the Association, and Dr. C. C. Caldwell were elected permanent members.

On motion of Dr. Watson, a committee to nominate officers for the present year was appointed, consisting of one delegate from each State represented, to be selected by the delegations from the respective States. The following were constituted that committee: Nathan Sanborn, New Hampshire; Ezekiel Fowler, R. Island; Worthington

Hooker, Conn.; Calvin Jewett, Vermont; Edward Reynolds, Massachusetts; T. W. Blatchford, New York; Enoch Fithian, New Jersey; Caspar Morris, Pennsylvania; James Couper, Delaware; S. P. Smith, Maryland; G. Lane Corbin, Virginia; Walter A. Norwood, North Carolina; Henry R. Frost, South Carolina; Paul F. Eve, Georgia; William B. Johnston, Alabama; Bennett Dowler, Louisiana; N. L. Thomas, Tennessee; C. Q. Blackburn, Ky.; G. W. Boerstler, Ohio; A. B. Palmer, Michigan; H. G. Sexton, Indiana; John Evans, Illinois; W. M. McPheeters, Missouri; S. G. Armor, Iowa; John Parker, Wisconsin.

The committee of arrangements reported the names of persons recommended by various delgates for membership by invitation.

On motion of Dr. White, of New York, the subject was referred to a special committee of five, to report the names of those who should be elected, and the following were appointed the committee: Drs. Ware, of Massachusetts; Johnson, of Missouri; Dowler, of Louisiana; Parrish, of Pennsylvania; Flint, of New York.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, relative to the registration of diseases, &c., throughout the

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United States, and offering in behalf of the Smithsonian Institute a room in its building for the meeting of the Association.

On motion, that part of the letter respecting registration was referred to the committee on hygiene, and that in reference to the room for the meeting of the Association to the committee on nominations.

The Secretary asked and obtained leave to present the report of the committee on publication, and the annual statement of the treasurer, which were read, referred to the committee on publication, and the following resolutions appended to the report were adopted :—

1. *Resolved*, That the annual assessment for the present year shall be three dollars.

2. *Resolved*, That those delegates who pay the assessment shall be entitled to one copy of the Transactions for the present year, and that the payment of two dollars, in addition, shall entitle them to three copies of the same.

3. *Resolved*, That permanent members shall be entitled to one copy of the Transactions for the present year, on the payment of two dollars; and three copies, on the payment of five dollars.

4. *Resolved*, That societies which are represented at this meeting, shall be entitled to copies, for their members, at the same rates at which they are furnished to delegates, viz., three copies for five dollars.

5. *Resolved*, That the permanent members, unless present at the meeting as delegates, shall not be subject to any assessment.

6. *Resolved*, That any delegate who is in arrears for an annual assessment, shall not be considered as a permanent member.

7. *Resolved*, That the several committees be requested to bring their reports fairly and legibly transcribed, and that they be required to hand their reports to the secretaries as soon as they are read.

The report of the committee on hygiene was presented, and after a portion had been read, it was referred to the committee on publication.

The committee on nominations reported the following as officers for the present year :—

President.—R. D. Mussey, Ohio.

Vice-Presidents.—J. B. Johnson, Missouri; A. Lopez, Alabama; Daniel Brainard, Illinois; G. W. Norris, Pennsylvania.

Secretaries.—Alfred Stillé, Pennsylvania; H. W. De Saussure, South Carolina.

Treasurer.—Isaac Hays, Pennsylvania. After some discussion the report was accepted.

May 8th, 1850.

The following resolutions, offered by Dr. Bowditch, of Massachusetts, were unanimously adopted :—

Resolved, That the American Medical Association has learned with deep regret of the death of Prof. Harrison, their late Vice-President, and they hereby wish to express their high sense of the virtues, talents, and professional merit of their distinguished associate.

Resolved, That in dying, as he did, while engaged in ministering to the wants, and relieving the sufferings of his fellow-citizens, this Association recognize in him a noble example of professional self-sacrifice.

Resolved, That the warmest sympathies of this Association are hereby most respectfully tendered to the family of their honoured and deceased associate.

On motion of Dr. Stillé, it was

Resolved, That a properly authenticated copy of the resolutions be transmitted to the family of Dr. Harrison.

Dr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, moved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair, to introduce the newly-elected officers, and to conduct the President elect to the chair.

The chair appointed Drs. Knight, of Connecticut; Corbin, of Virginia; and Blackburn, of Kentucky.

The President elect, having been introduced by the committee, was presented to the Association by the President. Dr. Mussey then returned his thanks to the Association for the honour conferred upon him.

On motion of Dr. Corbin, of Virginia, the late President and Vice-Presidents were invited to take their seats on the platform.

The following resolution, introduced by Dr. Kerfoot, of Pennsylvania, was unanimously adopted :—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the late officers, for the very gentlemanly, courteous, and efficient manner of conducting the business of the Association.

Dr. Stillé moved a suspension of the rules for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee on "members by invitation."

Dr. Ware, of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee, made a report, concluding with the following resolutions :—

Resolved, That all those gentlemen who have been nominated to the Association be admitted as members by invitation.

Resolved, That at the next meeting of the Association, a committee shall be appointed, at an early period of the session, to whom shall be presented all nominations of members by invitation, who shall report such of them for admission as shall appear, according to a liberal interpretation of the Constitution, to have a claim to this privilege.

The first resolution was adopted. The second, after much discussion, was indefinitely postponed.

Dr. W. Hooker, of Connecticut, offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the section in the Constitution relating to members by invitation be repealed; which lies over, according to rule, to the next meeting of the Association. Dr. Evans, of Kentucky, also offered a resolution of the same purport.

The President announced the report of the committee on education as the order of business of the day.

Dr. Blatchford, of New York, presented the report of the committee on education, which he requested might be read by the Secretary, as the chairman of the committee was absent. The Secretary read the report.

Dr. Blatchford offered the following preamble and resolutions, prefacing them with the remarks, that although a member of the committee, he had never seen the report until late on the preceding evening, and that he dissented altogether from the opinions it expressed.

Whereas, This Association has learnt through its several committees, appointed from year to year to examine into the state of medical education in our country, that many of the Medical Colleges, invested by law with the power of granting degrees, still continue a system of instruction which we cannot but regard as defective, both in the time allotted to the delivery of lectures, in the attention paid to practical anatomy, in the facilities afforded for clinical instruction, and in the low standard of the requirements for a degree; therefore,

Resolved, That this Association reiterates its former recommendations upon these points, and would urge upon the Medical Colleges to continue their efforts to elevate the standard of medical education, by adopting such changes in their courses of instruc-

tion as shall satisfy the just and reasonable desires of the profession.

Resolved, That the thanks of the American Medical Association are due to the Faculties of the *University of Pennsylvania* and of the *College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York*, and all other institutions which may have conformed to our recommendations, for their prompt response to the recommendations of the Association for the improvement of medical education.

Dr. Roberts, of Maryland, also a member of the committee, stated that he had never seen the report until the preceding evening, and did not entirely approve of it.

Dr. Stillé wished to correct a statement made in the report, "that none of the Colleges of Pharmacy in the Atlantic cities seem to be in active operation." Dr. Stillé called attention to the fact that the Colleges of Pharmacy of New York and Philadelphia were in active operation, and had shown their activity, among other ways, by taking an efficient part in procuring the passage of the law to prevent the importation of spurious and adulterated drugs.

Dr. Isaac Wood, of New York, also desired to say, that the College of Pharmacy of New York was in active and efficient operation.

Dr. Parrish, of Pennsylvania, after having expressed his dissent at length from the doctrine of the report, moved that it take the usual course, and be referred to the committee on publication.

Dr. Annan, of Kentucky, moved to amend by referring the report and the resolutions of Dr. Blatchford to a select committee, of which Dr. Parrish should be chairman.

After much discussion, and the offering and withdrawal of several resolutions,

Dr. Stillé offered the following resolutions as an amendment, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That the report of the chairman of the committee on medical education be recommitted for correction as to matters of fact, and then handed to the committee of publication.

Resolved, That the resolutions of Dr. Blatchford be made the special order for the meeting of this afternoon.

On motion of Dr. Knight, of Connecticut, it was

Resolved, That the committee appointed to nominate the officers of the Association be continued, and that they be directed to nominate the several standing committees

of the Association for the ensuing year, and also to designate a place for the next meeting of the Association.

Dr Reyburn, of Missouri, in behalf of the Medical Society of the State of Missouri, tendered an invitation from said Society to the National Medical Association to meet in St. Louis after the next annual meeting.

The Association then adjourned to 3½ P. M.

Afternoon Session.

Dr. Johnson, Vice-President, in the chair.

The discussion of Dr. Blatchford's resolutions was resumed, and

Dr. Miller, of Kentucky, moved to amend the first by inserting after the word "efforts" — "and the lay members of the profession who take office-pupils to begin their efforts" — which was accepted by Dr. Blatchford.

Before coming to a vote, the Association adjourned to 9 A. M. of Thursday.

May 9th—Morning Session.

Dr. Johnson, Vice-President, in the chair.

After reading the minutes, and the transaction of some unimportant business, the President announced the resolutions of Dr. Blatchford as amended by Dr. Miller, of Kentucky, as the first business in order.

Dr. Eve, of Georgia, moved that the resolutions be indefinitely postponed, which was not adopted.

After much discussion and conversation, the previous question was moved by Dr. Edwards, of Ohio, and carried.

A motion for a reconsideration having been made, was carried; and the resolutions being again open for discussion, it was moved by Dr. J. R. Wood, of New York, that the Association go into committee of the whole, with Dr. Knight, of Connecticut, in the chair.

This resolution having been adopted, Dr. Knight took the chair, and the Association went into committee of the whole.

The committee rose to report, when, on motion of Dr. Lopez, the rules were suspended, in order to enable him to make an explanation and read a protest, on behalf of the delegates of the State of Alabama, against certain statements made in the report of the committee on education, in 1849, and published in the volume of Transactions of that year; the protest concluding with the following preamble and resolution:—

Whereas, The third section of the report on medical education, entitled "legal requirements exacted by medical practitioners in the several States of the Union," being discordant with the laws of the State of Alabama, now existing, and in force from 1823, unrepealed, and more especially at variance with a strict sense of justice and respect to the medical faculty of that State in their professional relations and public standing—

Resolved, That the foregoing protest be entered upon the minutes of this present meeting, and published with its proceedings.

On motion of Dr. Coxe, of Ohio, the protest was accepted, and referred to the committee on publication.

Dr. Lopez, Vice-President, then took the chair.

The chairman of the committee of the whole, reported that they had had under consideration the preamble and resolutions of Dr. Blatchford, of New York, and certain other resolutions, herewith submitted, proposed by Drs. Lawson and Drake, of Ohio, Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, and Dr. Theobald, of Maryland, which were recommended by resolution of Dr. Flint, of New York, to be referred to the standing committee for 1851; and that they afterwards adopted the accompanying resolution of Dr. Caspar Morris, of Pennsylvania, offered as a substitute for the above.

On motion, the report of the committee was adopted.

Amendment offered by Dr. Lawson, of Ohio:—

Resolved, That all Medical Colleges be advised to require of their students to exhibit evidence of a good English education prior to graduation.

Resolved, That Medical Colleges be advised to extend their lecture terms to at least five months.

Resolved, That Medical Colleges be most earnestly requested to elevate the standard for graduation; and that no candidate be permitted to receive a degree who does not evince a thorough knowledge of the elements of medical science.

Resolved, That those schools which fail to comply with these resolutions, be refused a representation in this Association.

Amendment offered by Dr. Drake:—

Resolved, That the medical schools of the United States should require pupils to remain till the end of the session, whatever

may be its length, except when permission may be given to depart.

Amendment offered by Dr. Theobald, of Maryland:

Resolved, That those medical schools in the United States which have laws requiring a student to be twenty-one years of age, and to study medicine three years before he is eligible to the degree of M. D., be requested to enforce said laws; and that those which have no such laws enact them.

Amendment offered by Dr. Gross, of Kentucky:

Resolved, That the resolution be so far amended as to strike out the words, "of the University of Pennsylvania, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of N. York."

Resolution offered by Dr. Morris, of Pa., as a substitute, adopted in committee of the whole, reported to the Association, and passed.

Resolved, That the recommendations of this Association at its former meetings, in regard to medical education, be reaffirmed, and that private preceptors be still urged to receive into their offices only those duly qualified by previous education to engage in the study of medicine.

On motion of Dr. Flint, the report of the committee on practical medicine was made the special order of business for the afternoon session.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 4 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

Dr. Lopez, Vice-President, in the chair.

A communication from Dr. Fenner, of Louisiana, was received, accompanied by a portion of a work, now in course of publication, relating to the medical topography and diseases of the south-west, and upon which subject he asked the co-operation of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Watson, of New York, it was

Resolved, that Dr. Fenner's projected annual publication on the Diseases and Medical Statistics of the Southern portion of the United States, meets with the cordial approbation of the American Medical Association, and is worthy of the active support and co-operation of the profession.

Dr. J. K. Mitchell, of Philadelphia, presented and read the report of the standing committee on Practical Medicine, which

was on motion received and referred to the committee on publication.

The following list of nominations was presented by the nominating committee.

Medical Sciences—Dr. Bennett Dowler, of New Orleans, Chairman. Drs. E. D. Fenner, New Orleans; G. L. Upshur, Norfolk, Virginia; W. B. Johnston, Marion, Alabama; F. G. Smith, Philadelphia; E. Carr, Canandaigua, New York; G. W. Meers, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Practical Medicine.—Dr. Austin Flint, Buffalo, New York, Chairman. Drs. H. M. Conger, Buffalo, New York; R. H. Davis, Baltimore, Maryland; W. A. Norwood, Hillsborough, North Carolina; G. L. Corbin, Halfway House, York County, Virginia; J. McNaughton, Albany, New York; R. Haymond, Brookville, Indiana.

Surgery.—Dr. Paul F. Eve, Augusta, Georgia, Chairman. Drs. J. N. Simmons, Griffin, Georgia; John Watson, New York; H. H. McGuire, Winchester, Virginia; S. D. Gross, Louisville, Kentucky; C. A. Pope, sen., St. Louis, Missouri; A. B. Palmer, Tecumseh, Michigan.

Obstetrics.—Dr. D. H. Storer, Boston, Chairman. Drs. E. Reynolds, Boston; H. Miller, Louisville, Kentucky; S. Thompson, Albion, Illinois; T. M. Smith, Brandywine, Delaware; R. Parker, Kenosha, Wisconsin; A. J. Mullen, Napoleon, Indiana.

Medical Education.—Dr. Worthington Hooker, Norwich, Connecticut, Chairman. Drs. T. W. Blatchford, Troy, New York; J. B. S. Jackson, Boston; E. W. Theobald, Baltimore; J. R. Wood, New York; N. S. Davis, Chicago, Illinois; C. J. Blackburn, Covington, Kentucky.

Medical Literature.—Dr. Thomas Reburn, St. Louis, Chairman. Drs. W. M. McPheevers, St. Louis; L. M. Lawson, Cincinnati; S. Annan, Lexington, Kentucky; J. Couper, Newcastle, Delaware; G. Tyler, Washington, D. C.; N. L. Thomas, Clarksville, Tennessee.

Committee on Publication.—Dr. Isaac Hays, Philadelphia, Chairman. Drs. A. Stille, D. F. Condie, Philadelphia; H. W. De Saussure, Charleston; J. R. W. Dunbar, Baltimore; I. Parrish, Philadelphia; N. Sanborn, Henniker, New Hampshire.

Committee of Arrangements.—Dr. H. R. Frost, Charleston, Chairman. Drs. P. C. Gaillard, H. W. DeSaussure, W. T.

Wragg; J. P. Jervey, R. Lebby, D. J. Cain, Charleston.

The Committee also recommended that the next meeting of the Association be held at Charleston, South Carolina.

On motion of Dr. Bowditch the report was adopted.

Dr. Evans, of Chicago, presented a brief report from Dr. Prioleau, Chairman of the committee on obstetrics, which was read and referred to the committee of publication, to be published or not at their discretion.

Dr. Evans also presented a paper, relating to a new instrument invented by him, called the "obstetrical extractor," and which he exhibited to the Association, describing upon the mannikin the mode of manipulating it. The paper was referred to the same committee and with like conditions, as the last.

Dr. Drake, as Chairman of the committee of arrangements, introduced a paper by Dr. N. S. Davis, upon the question "Has the cerebellum any special connection with the sexual propensity, or function of generation?" It was read by its author and referred to the committee on publication.

The Association then adjourned to Friday at 9 A. M.

May 10th.

Dr. Johnson, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Parsons of Rhode Island, Chairman of the Committee on Medical Sciences, presented the report of the committee, which was received, and referred to the committee on publication.

Dr. Huston, chairman of the committee on spurious and adulterated drugs, read his report, concluding with the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the various state and local medical societies, be requested to annually appoint boards of examiners, whose duty it shall be to procure specimens of drugs from the stores within their limits, for examination, and report upon the same to their respective societies, at least once in every year.

Resolved, That the respectable druggists and apothecaries, throughout the United States, be requested to take active measures for suppressing the fabrication and sale of inferior and adulterated drugs, and that it is respectfully suggested to them, whenever

practicable, to form themselves into societies or colleges for the promotion of Pharmaceutical knowledge, and general improvement in their profession.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, consisting of one member from each state here represented, whose duty it shall be to collect information in regard to spurious and adulterated drugs, and report the same at the next meeting of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Stillé, the report was received, and referred to the committee on publication, and the resolutions were adopted.

The following committee was appointed under the last resolution:—

Nathan B. Ives, New Haven, Connecticut, chairman. J. F. Sargent, Concord, New Hampshire; Calvin Jewett, St. Johnsbury, Vermont; Gilman Kimball, Lowell, Massachusetts; Ezekiel Fowler, Smithfield, Rhode Island; George N. Burwell, Buffalo, New York; William Elmer, Bridgeton, New Jersey; R. B. Mowry, Alleghany City, Pennsylvania; James Couper, New Castle, Delaware; James S. Stevenson, Baltimore, Maryland; E. A. Hildreth, Wheeling, Virginia; Walter A. Norwood, Hillsboro', North Carolina; T. L. Ogier, Charleston, South Carolina; Jas. N. Simmons, Griffin, Georgia; J. T. Hargraves, Florence, Alabama; Bennett Dowler, New Orleans, Louisiana; Thomas Lipscomb, Shelbyville, Tennessee; W. L. Sutton, Georgetown, Kentucky; S. Hanbury Smith, Columbus, Ohio; G. W. Mears, Indianapolis, Indiana; John Evans, Chicago, Illinois; D. E. Meade, St. Louis, Missouri; J. Adams Allen, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Samuel G. Armor, Davenport, Indiana; John Parker, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Dr. Mussey, chairman of the committee on surgery, presented and read the report of the committee, which on motion was received and referred to the committee on publication.

Dr. Charles C. Caldwell, of Kentucky, presented the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That a committee of be appointed, to take into consideration, and report at the next meeting of the Association, how far the sciences of phrenology and mesmerism (or animal magnetism) are founded in truth? and to what extent a knowledge of them may be rendered subservient to the treatment and cure of diseases.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the subject of vital organic chemistry, and report at the next meeting of the Association, whether a branch of science justly entitled to that name actually exists? and if so, how far a knowledge of it can be rendered available to the welfare of man.

The following resolutions, offered by Dr. Sillé as a substitute, and accepted by Dr. Caldwell, were adopted:—

Resolved, That Dr. Caldwell be requested to prepare a report, to be presented at the next meeting, showing how far, in his judgment, the sciences of phrenology and mesmerism are founded in truth, and to what extent a knowledge of them may be rendered subservient to the treatment and cure of diseases.

Resolved, That Dr. Caldwell be requested to take into consideration the subject of vital organic chemistry, and report to the next meeting whether, in his judgment, it can be justly called a branch of science, and if so, how far a knowledge of it can be rendered available to the welfare of man.

The committee on nominations reported the following names for committees.

Committee on Indigenous Medical Botany and Materia Medica.—Dr. A. Clapp, New Albany, Indiana; Drs. J. M. Bigelow, Lancaster, Ohio; G. Engelmann, Missouri; H. R. Frost, Charleston, South Carolina; J. Carson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; N. B. Ives, New Haven, Connecticut; U. Parsons, Providence, Rhode Island.

Committee on Hygiene.—Dr. James Moultrie, Charleston, South Carolina; Drs. P. C. Gaillard, do.; W. De Saussure, do.; D. Drake, Cincinnati, Ohio; L. H. Anderson, Sumpterville, Alabama; G. Emerson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; J. Parish, Burlington, New Jersey.

On motion, the report was accepted, and the nominations confirmed.

On motion, the report of the committee on medical literature was made the special order for the afternoon session.

On motion of Dr. Yardley, it was

Resolved, That the committee on hygiene be requested to report on the best plan of warming and ventilating public and private buildings.

Dr. Blatchford of New York, offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a special committee on pharmacy, and the adulteration of

drugs, shall be appointed by the President, consisting of seven members, of whom Dr. T. O. Edwards, of Ohio, shall be chairman, to report at our next annual meeting, and that the special committee on Forensic Medicine appointed last year under Dr. Stevens' resolution be reappointed, and that it be optional with Dr. Stevens to continue as chairman, or to appoint a successor, which was adopted. The following committee on pharmacy and adulterated drugs were appointed: Dr. T. O. Edwards, Cincinnati, Chairman. Drs. T. W. Blatchford, Troy, New York; R. M. Huston, Philadelphia; H. I. Bowditch, Boston; E. W. Theobald, Baltimore; H. R. Frost, Charleston; J. B. Johnson, St. Louis.

On motion of Dr. Morris, of Pennsylvania, it was

Resolved, That it is with great satisfaction the members of this Association have observed the establishment of drug stores, in which, neither patent medicine, nostrums, nor other articles, by which the artful and designing impose on the ignorant and credulous, are exposed for sale; and that the Association recommends to its members to exert their influence in their respective spheres of action to encourage similar efforts in other places.

Dr. Phelps, of New York, offered the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted:—

Whereas, The clinical profession often, though, perhaps, sometimes unwarily, yield the extensive influence in the community, in giving currency to quackery and quack medicines, therefore

Resolved, That this subject be referred to the committee on hygiene, to consider, and report at the next annual meeting of the Association.

Dr. W. Hooker, of Connecticut, offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the rule in relation to nostrums and secret medicines contained in our code of medical ethics, ought to be strictly observed by the medical profession, under all circumstances.

Resolved, That when a physician claiming to be the inventor of a new medicine, and using the measures of the common quack in effecting its sale, manages to escape censure and punishment, and to obtain even the countenance of a portion of the profession by revealing the composition of his medicine to such of his medical brethren,

ren as may desire it, he is guilty of a dis-honourable evasion of the rule referred to, and should be so considered and treated by the whole profession.

Dr. Lawson, of Ohio, moved to amend by the addition of the following resolution :—

Resolved, That this Association regards it as contrary to its system of ethics for Medical Journals to advertise nostrums, or secret remedies, although their composition may have been made known to the editor.

The resolutions and the amendment were then adopted.

The Association adjourned to 3½ P. M.

Afternoon Session.

Dr. Johnson, Vice-President, in the chair.

Dr. Miller, of Kentucky, moved a suspension of the rules, and offered the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted :—

Whereas, Clinical instruction in medicine and surgery is now generally acknowledged to be essential to the proper qualification of students for the practice of these branches of our profession, and whereas, it must be admitted that clinical instruction in midwifery would be equally valuable, therefore,

Resolved, That the committee on medical education be instructed to inquire whether any practicable scheme can be devised to render instruction in midwifery more practical than it has hitherto been in the medical schools of the United States, and report at the next meeting of this Association.

The Secretary presented several reports, &c., which, on motion, were made the special order immediately after the report on medical literature.

Dr. Stillé, chairman, presented and read the report of the committee on medical literature, concluding with the following resolutions :—

Resolved, That the Association regards the cultivation of medical literature as essential to professional improvement, and as adapted to form one of the broadest lines of distinction between physicians and all pretenders to the name.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association it is equally the duty and the interest of the profession to sustain its periodical literature, both by literary contributions and subscription.

Resolved, That since literary excellence is best developed by literary studies, the formation of medical reading clubs, after the

plan set forth in this report, is urged especially upon physicians in places where the periodical and other medical publications of the day are not readily accessible upon other terms.

Resolved, That the standing committee on medical literature be instructed to report to the Association at its next meeting what American medical work, published during the year of their service, in their judgment is the most valuable, and with the consent of the Association such work shall be formally proclaimed by the President.

Resolved, That state and local societies are hereby recommended to offer pecuniary reward or other distinction for the best memoir founded upon original observation.

Resolved, That medical colleges are hereby recommended to distinguish the best inaugural theses by a public announcement of its subject and the name of its author, and in such other manner as they may deem appropriate.

Resolved, That the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, raised by voluntary contribution, be offered by this Association for the best experimental essay on a subject connected either with physiology or medical chemistry, and that a committee of seven be appointed to carry out the objects of this resolution: said committee to receive the competing memoirs until the first day of March, 1851; the authors' names to be concealed from the committee; and the name of the successful competitor alone to be announced after the publication of the decision.

On motion, the report was accepted and referred to the committee of publication, and the resolutions were considered *seriatim* and adopted.

The following were appointed the committee to carry out the last resolution of the committee on medical literature, viz :—

Dr. F. G. Smith, Philadelphia, chairman; Drs. A. Stillé, Philadelphia; R. Bridges, do.; W. L. Atlee, do.; F. Bache, do.; L. P. Yandell, Louisville; J. Moultrie, Charleston.

The report of the committee on an international copyright law, Dr. G. B. Wood, chairman, and Dr. Hays, with a memorial ordered to be prepared at the last meeting of the Association, was read, and accepted; and the memorial ordered to be signed by the officers and transmitted to Congress.

The report of the special committee, Drs. Horner, Condie, and Hays,* appointed to

consider the measures suggested in the report on medical literature for 1849, was submitted. The following resolution, appended to the report, was read and adopted.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association the only legitimate means within our reach for the encouragement and maintenance of a national medical literature, is to increase the standard of preliminary and professional education required of those who would enter the medical profession; to promote the circulation among the members of the profession of the medical journals of the day; to encourage the establishment of district medical libraries; and to induce every practitioner to cultivate, with care, the fields of observation and research that are within his reach.

On motion, the report was referred to the committee of publication.

Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted:—

Whereas, The interests and the dignity of the medical profession of the United States, as well as a true spirit of patriotism and a love of independence, demand that we should use all proper and honourable means for the establishment of a national medical literature; and *whereas*, we have hitherto paid too blind and indiscriminate a deference and devotion to European authorities, and not sufficiently patronized and protected our own: therefore,

Resolved, That this Association earnestly and respectfully recommend to the medical profession generally, and to the various medical schools in particular, the employment of native works as text-books for their pupils, instead of the productions of foreign writers.

Resolved, That the editing of English works by American physicians, has a tendency to repress native literary and scientific authorship, and ought therefore to be discouraged by all who have at heart the objects contemplated in this preamble.

Resolved, That this Association will always hail with satisfaction, the reprint in their original and unmutilated form of any meritorious works that may emanate from the British press.

On motion of Dr. Roberts, of Maryland, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair for the purpose of preparing, for the action of the Association

at its next convention, all unfinished business found upon its records.

The following gentlemen were appointed: Drs. G. C. M. Roberts, J. R. W. Dunbar, and E. W. Theobald, of Baltimore.

Dr. Roberts, of Maryland, also offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That all proposed alterations of the Constitution be, and they hereby are laid on the table for the present.

Dr. Drake, of Ohio, offered the following as an amendment to the Constitution:—

Resolved, That the second section of the Regulations of the Association be so amended as to require that candidates for membership by invitation, be nominated in writing by five members; that when elected they shall enjoy all the rights of delegates, and that all permanent members shall be entitled to vote. The resolution involving an amendment to the Constitution lies on the table till the next meeting.

Dr. McGuire, of Virginia, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, in every properly organized community governed by military laws, every member of it should possess a recognized position; as no military organization can be efficient and complete without including a corps of competent surgeons; as the value of their services depends in a great measure upon the degree of respect accorded to them, the common interests of our country and of our profession demand that the legal position of medical men in the army and navy should be such as will secure them due consideration by their military associates, independently of a contingent courtesy; and as efforts are now being made to deprive medical officers in the navy of the relative position or assimilated rank conferred by a general order of the Navy Department, it concerns the honour of the whole profession to assist its members in the navy to obtain and secure an assimilated rank by law: therefore,

Resolved, That the American Medical Association is gratified by the legislation of Congress, which has conferred military rank on medical officers of the army, as it places them on an equality with officers of the several staff-departments, and thus gives them a position to which the importance and dignity of the profession they represent entitles them; and it is earnestly desired

that Congress, in its present session, will extend the same privileges and immunities to medical officers in the navy.

Resolved, That the members of the American Medical Association will exert their influence to sustain the just pretensions of their brethren to an assimilated rank in the military organizations of the country; and they would view with feelings of deep mortification a proposition from any source to deprive the medical officers of the army of any of the privileges or powers secured to them by the act of Congress, approved the 11th of February, 1847, a law which confers upon them a protective or conservative rank, and enables them to discharge their duties more effectually.

Resolved, That the members of the American Medical Association hear with regret that several naval commanders have disregarded the general orders of the Navy Department, which place medical officers on an equality of rights and privileges (except military command) with other officers in the navy; and they consider such resistance of the authority of the Secretary of the Navy an assumption which cannot be sanctioned by enlightened men of the present age, and should at once be put down by public opinion and by the authority of the government.

Resolved, That a definite position or assimilated rank, not inferior to that possessed by the medical staff of the army, should be assigned by law to medical officers in the navy, and, therefore, that the attention of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States be, and is hereby invited to the subject.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted to the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, through the chiefs of the medical department of each service, and to the presiding officer of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

On motion of Dr. Bowditch, of Massachusetts, it was

Resolved, That the committee on medical education be requested to report at the next annual meeting of the Association, whether, in their opinion, any plan can be devised whereby medical students may receive a more thorough education in practical chemistry than they receive at present at any of the Medical Colleges of the Union.

The Secretary presented the report of the committee on Indigenous Medical Botany;

a report on the Vital Statistics of New Orleans, by Dr. J. C. Simonds; Biographical Notices of Deceased Physicians, by Dr. Williams, of Massachusetts, all of which were referred to the committee on publication; and a Catalogue of Indigenous Medical Botany, by Dr. Bigelow, of Ohio, which was referred to the committee on Botany.

Dr. Flint, of New York, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the manuscript work of the late lamented Dr. Forry, be referred to the committee on publication, to be published in connection with the transactions of the Association, provided it be deemed advisable by the committee, and consistent with the pecuniary resources of the Association.

Dr. W. L. Sutton, of Kentucky, nominated by Dr. Drake a permanent member, was unanimously received.

On motion of Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, to report at the next annual meeting of this Association on the propriety of recommending to the American people the importance of establishing schools of veterinary medicine and surgery, in which the diseases of the horse, ox, dog, and other domestic animals may be investigated, and thorough and sufficient courses of instruction delivered to such young men as may wish to qualify themselves for the practice of the veterinary profession.

The committee is composed of Drs. S. D. Gross, David W. Yandell, and L. Powell, of Louisville.

Dr. M. Z. Kreider, of Ohio, presented a protest and resolutions against the vending of spurious and adulterated drugs, from the Fairfield county Medical Institute, which was read by the Secretary, and referred to a special committee, of which Dr. Edwards is chairman.

The following resolution, submitted by Dr. Mead, of Illinois, was referred to the committee on medical education:—

Resolved, That the committee on medical education be instructed to inquire into the expediency of recommending to the Colleges to abolish the rule which allows four years' practice to be received as an equivalent for attendance on one course of lectures, and to require all candidates for graduation to attend two full courses; also, the expediency of adopting a uniform rate

of lecture fees, varying in amount only between the Colleges of the North and those of the South.

On motion of Dr. Stillé, the President was requested to appoint the several committees called for by the resolutions adopted during the session, and not otherwise provided for.

Dr. Jennings, of Massachusetts, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the Messrs. Tilden, of New Lebanon, New York, for samples of their medicinal extracts, which they have presented to this Association.

Dr. Morris, of Pennsylvania, presented the following resolutions, which were seconded by Dr. L. P. Yandell, of Kentucky, and unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the committee of arrangement for the careful and judicious manner in which they have provided for its accommodation, and their constant, assiduous attention to promote the convenience of its members.

Resolved, That we appreciate highly the hospitality and courtesy with which we have been received by the medical profession of Cincinnati, and assure them of the heartfelt gratitude with which we shall reflect upon the kindness they have manifested in our reception and entertainment.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Medical College, for the kindness with which they have placed their Hall at the service of this body.

When, on motion, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

National Medical Convention, for revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States. —The fourth decennial convention for revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States met at Washington on Monday, the 6th instant. The following delegates were present in the convention:—

From the Rhode Island Medical Society, Dr. Joseph Mauran.

From the Geneva Medical College, Dr. James Bryan.

From the College of Pharmacy of the city of New York, Messrs. John Milhau and George D. Coggeshall.

From the Medical Society of New Jersey, Drs. Lewis Condict and Wm. A. Newell.

From the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Drs. Joseph Carson, Henry Bond, and Francis West.

From the University of Pennsylvania, Drs. George B. Wood and James B. Rogers.

From the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Dr. Franklin Bache.

From the Medical Faculty of the Pennsylvania College, Dr. H. S. Patterson.

From the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, Dr. Clinton G. Stees.

From the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Messrs. D. B. Smith, Charles Elles, and Wm Procter, jr.

From the Medical Society of Delaware, Drs. Isaac Jump and J. W. Thomson.

From the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, Drs. David Stewart and Joshua I. Cohen.

From the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, Drs. J. C. Hall and Harvey Lindsly.

From the National Medical College of the District of Columbia, Drs. Joshua Riley, Thomas Miller, and Edward Foreman.

From the Medical Department of the National Institute, D. C., Drs. James Wynne and S. D. Gale.

From the Georgetown Medical College, Dr. F. Howard.

And from the Rush Medical College, Illinois, Dr. G. N. Fitch.

The credentials of delegates from the New Hampshire Medical Institution, the University of Buffalo, the Medical Department of Hampden Sidney College, the Medical Society of South Carolina, the Medical College of Ohio, the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, the Missouri Medical Society, and the Medical Faculty of the University of Iowa, were presented by the Vice-President of the Convention of 1840; but these delegates did not make their appearance during the session of the Convention.

A temporary organization was effected by calling Dr. Lewis Condict, President of the Convention of 1840, to the chair, and appointing Dr. Harvey Lindsly, Secretary. A committee of five was then appointed, consisting of Drs. Bache, Mauran, Thorson, Miller, and Mr. Coggeshall, to nominate the permanent officers of the Convention, with instructions to name two Vice-Presidents instead of one, as had been the custom

on former occasions. This committee retired, and, after a short consultation, reported the names of the following delegates, viz:—

For President, Dr. George B. Wood, of Pennsylvania.

For Vice-Presidents, Dr. Joseph Mauran, of Rhode Island, and Dr. D. Y. Simons, of South Carolina.

For Secretary, Dr. Harvey Lindsly, of the District of Columbia; and for Assistant Secretary, Dr. Edward Foreman, of the same place.

The nominations were confirmed by the Convention, and the President took the chair.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Surgeon-General of the Army, the Chief of the Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and such of the members of the two Houses of Congress as might be medical graduates, should be invited to take seats in the Convention, and participate in its proceedings.

In conformity with the directions of the preceding Convention, the committee of revision and publication, appointed by that body, presented a report of their proceedings, which was accepted.

The delegates of the several medical bodies represented in the Convention were then called on for contributions towards the revision of the Pharmacopœia; when reports were handed in from the delegate of the Rhode Island Medical Society, from the College of Pharmacy of the city of New York, from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and from the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. These reports were referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. Bond, Mauran, Cohen, Miller, and Mr. Milbau, with directions to report a plan for the revision and publication of the Pharmacopœia; after which the Convention adjourned to the following day.

At the next meeting, on Tuesday morning, a committee was appointed to examine the accounts and vouchers presented by the committee of revision and publication of the preceding Convention, and reported that they had found them correct.

Dr. Bond, from the committee to which had been referred the reports from various medical bodies represented in the Convention, reported the following resolutions:—

1. That a committee of revision and publication, consisting of nine members, be

appointed, to which shall be referred all communications offered to the Convention in relation to the revision of the Pharmacopœia, and that three of this committee shall form a quorum.

2. That the committee shall meet in the city of Philadelphia, and be convened as soon as practicable by the chairman.

3. That said committee shall be authorized to publish the work after its revision, and to take all other measures which may be necessary to carry out the views and intentions of the Convention.

4. That the committee shall have power to fill its own vacancies.

5. That, after the completion of its labours, the committee shall submit a report of its proceedings to the Secretary of this Convention, to be laid before the next Convention.

These resolutions were adopted, and the following delegates appointed on the committee, viz.: Drs. Franklin Bache, Joseph Carson, and Mr. William Procter, jr., of Philadelphia; Dr. Joseph Mauran, of Providence, Rhode Island; Mr. John Milbau, of the city of New York; Dr. J.W. Thompson, of Wilmington, Delaware; Dr. David Stewart, of Baltimore; Dr. Joshua Riley, of the District of Columbia; and Dr. G.N. Fitch, of Logansport, Indiana.

It was resolved that the President of the Convention be added to the above committee, and serve as its chairman.

In reference to the manner of calling and the mode of constituting the next decennial Convention, to meet in the year 1860, it was

Resolved, That the regulations in reference to the present Convention, adopted by that of the year 1840, and published in the last edition of the Pharmacopœia, should be adopted, with the necessary modifications in relation to the dates; the day of meeting being changed from the first Monday to the first Wednesday in May.

A letter was read inviting the members of the Convention to a dinner, to be given at the National Hotel, by the medical gentlemen of Washington and Georgetown. The invitation was accepted, and the thanks of the Convention voted to the gentlemen referred to for their hospitality.

The thanks of the Convention were also unanimously voted to Dr. Lewis Condict, President of the last Convention, for valuable services; and to the Board of Aldermen

of the city of Washington, for their courtesy in offering their Hall for the sittings of the Convention.

The Convention then adjourned.

After its adjournment, Dr. William B. Chapman, one of the delegates from the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, arriving in Washington, stated to the Secretary his concurrence in the proceedings of the Convention.

HARVEY LINDSLY, M. D.,

Secretary of the Convention.

WASHINGTON, May 9th, 1850.

The Mercer County Medical Society held its regular quarterly meeting on the 2d day of April. The President being absent, Dr. Cossitt was called to the chair. The committee appointed for that purpose, reported a fee bill for adoption by the society, and after some discussion and amendments it was adopted. The members then visited a patient labouring under general ankylosis, the result of acute rheumatism. Dr. Henderson presented a case of diseased eye, consequent to injury received from the explosion of a cannon. Dr. J. W. Grier then declined serving as delegate to the American Medical Association, and, being excused, Dr. Geo. W. Baskin was elected in his stead. Committees to prepare papers on surgery, practice, obstetrics, and *materia medica* were appointed.

There is evidently an increasing interest in the meetings, and the members of the profession seem to appreciate more fully the benefits and necessity of association.

GEO. W. BASKIN,
Seect'y Mer. Co. Med. Soc.

Chicago Medical Society.—A Society was organized in April last at Chicago, Ill., under this title. The following are the officers:—

President—Dr. L. D. Boone.

Vice-President—E. McArthur.

Secretary—B. McKias.

The stated meetings are to be held on the first Monday of each month.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

University of Pennsylvania.—We are gratified to announce the election of Dr. George B. Wood, who has filled for some years with signal ability the Chair of Ma-

teria Medica, to the Professorship of Theory and Practice of Medicine, recently vacated by the resignation of the venerable Chapman.

Dr. Wood's admirable work on the Practice of Medicine proves him to be well qualified for the position to which he has been appointed, even if his highly cultivated mind, long experience, and eminent abilities as a teacher and lecturer had not precluded any doubt on the subject.

Dr. Wood proceeds immediately to Europe to obtain materials for illustrating his lectures.

We are pleased to learn that the Faculty have determined to persevere in the prolongation of the course of lectures to six months, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the profession and the requirements of our science.

Medical College of the State of South Carolina.—Professor John Bellinger has resigned from the Chair of Surgery in this School. Professor E. Geddings has been transferred to the Chair of Surgery, vacated by Professor Bellinger, and Professor S. H. Dickson elected to that of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine, which he had so long filled before he accepted the same Chair in the University of the city of New York.

Transylvania University.—The Trustees of this University, we are informed, have authorized the change of time of commencing the Medical Session from November to March, in view of the increasing difficulties of maintaining a respectable winter organization in Lexington. The next Session will begin, therefore, about the middle of March next, of which due notice will be given by advertisement.

Professor Dudley, who has held the Chair of Surgery with so much distinction for more than thirty years, has resigned, and was immediately appointed Emeritus Professor of Surgery.

Injections of Iodine and Iodide of Potassium in Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.—Dr. BRAINARD has employed the injection, during the past year, in three additional cases of *Spina Bifida*, with satisfactory results; and in one case of chronic congenital *hydrocephalus*. This latter case has been six months under treatment; during which time the operation has been repeated twen-

ty-one times. As large an amount as gr. xij of iodine, and gr. xxxvj iodide of potass to oz. j of distilled water, has been injected into the head, at one operation, without producing inconvenient results.—*N. W. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, May, 1850.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Substitutes for Cod-Liver Oil.—This subject has elicited a highly interesting discussion in Dublin. Some specimens of "cod-liver" oil, and ordinary "train" oil, were lately exhibited at the Surgical Society, which few could distinguish one from the other—each giving the violet colour with sulphuric acid, hitherto considered characteristic of the more expensive oil. Dr. Bagot, who brought the subject forward, cited some cases in which he had exhibited the "train" oil with precisely the same effect as the "cod-liver" oil. He did not seem quite satisfied as to the exact source of "train" oil; but Dr. Jacob at once cleared up the difficulty, by showing that it comes from the great northern whale—the "basking shark," a common fish on the west coast of Ireland, yielding also an oil not very different. Even the cod oil of the shops, now all but a necessary of life for our fashionable folk, Dr. Jacob seemed to say, was got from several of the *Gadus* tribe, the hake, ling, &c.; in fact, all the oils were the same, and had the unmissable smell of the whale or "train" oil. In the course of the discussion, it was mentioned that, among the Norway fishermen, the liver of the cod was found of great value in rheumatic affections, and there was only one period of the season at which the liver yielded the oil in a state of purity, leading to the obvious suggestion, whether the generative function had anything to do in the production of the still hidden principle, so valuable in many complaints.

Dr. Jacob spoke of compression as the best mode of obtaining the oil from the cells of the liver; an entirely different oil procured from the "blubber" of the whale, we should be on our guard against, and not confound with the oils from the liver. An oil got from the herring, from the fat of its mesentery and intestines was also different, but might yet be made available for medicinal purposes. The nature of the active principle of cod-liver oil seems very far from settled, judging from the opinions of

the members—some looking on it as iodine, Geoghegan and Kennedy as some peculiar combinations of fatty matter, both perhaps being engaged. Of the value of the oil, every day's experience but more fully testifies; and the only dangers to be apprehended from substitutes, perhaps, would be, that the oil itself would fall into disuse; and, as before, in Lancashire, in 1776, it might become again merely a matter of curious history.

New Mode of Testing Sugar.—One of the chief deficiencies of the practical physician—and it is one extremely difficult to get over—is his imperfect acquaintance with practical chemistry. The little he knows is of no avail in unravelling the deeper secrets of pathology, while a more intimate knowledge would require a degree of study which few men in active practice can possibly bestow. Hence any mode of facilitating chemical processes—any discovery which substitutes for a difficult analysis a popular test of ready application—is an invaluable boon to the medical practitioner.

In this point of view, the discovery of M. Maumené, communicated at the last meeting of the Institut, must be viewed as a most important one, should experience confirm it, and show that it is easily applicable. M. Maumené announces that the presence of sugar in any fluid may be discovered by means of a simple testing-paper.

Contrary to the assertion of Liebig, the author affirms that chlorine acts energetically on sugar, and converts it into a species of caramel. The chlorides and bichlorides enjoy the same property. If solutions of sugar and of bichloride of tin be mixed together, and allowed to evaporate, the fluid soon becomes brown, and in twelve or eighteen months is changed into a jelly of a dark brown colour. By applying heat we obtain the change much more rapidly; but it must be carried to 130 or 150 degrees.

From these simple facts, the mode of constructing a test-tissue for sugar is easily deducible. A slip of white merino is dipped for four or five minutes in a solution of the bichloride of tin (one part to two of water), and then gently dried over a sand-bath. The test-tissue is now prepared. Nothing is more easy than its application. Suppose we wish to test the urine. A drop or two is placed on the test-tissue, and the latter

held over the flame of a lamp or candle. The characteristic dark stain is produced in about a minute. The sensibility of the agent is great. When only ten drops of diabetic urine were mixed with 100 cubic centimetres of water, a solution was produced which turned the test-tissue completely dark. Healthy urine, uric acid, urea, &c., have no effect whatever on the colour of the chloride. It is true that this simple method will not enable the practitioner to determine the quantity of sugar contained in a fluid; but the facility of its application and great sensibility are, we repeat, advantages of very great importance.

—*Med. Times*, April 6.

Changes in the Quantity of Albumen in the Blood.—The following conclusions regarding the variations of the albumen are given by M. A. Becquerel, the son of the well-known physician, in a memoir lately read at the Academie des Sciences. In the blood, the mean quantity of albumen is 80 parts per 1000: the variations from 75 to 85. The quantity diminishes in persons insufficiently fed; in many cases of chronic disease; in persons who have been much bled, or in whom there have been losses of other liquids, as in dropsies, &c. In "simple continued fever," the albumen remains at its usual figure; in plethora, sometimes normal, sometimes decreased; in erysipelas of the face with fever, decreased; in pneumonia, much decreased after the second day; in acute pleurisy and bronchitis, decreased to a less degree; in pulmonary emphysema decreased during the access of dyspnoea; in disease of the heart unchanged, unless there is dropsy, when it diminishes; in Bright's disease diminished, apparently by the abundant dropsy, and not by the actual loss through the kidneys. M. A. Becquerel describes also a polariscope founded on the extent to which the albuminous liquid rotates to the left the ray of light.—*Ibid.*, from *L'Union Médicale*, Nov. 29.

Disappearance of the Pancreas.—M. Bernard exhibited, at a late meeting of the Société de Biologie, a dog, in whom a pancreatic fistula had been made. The animal died in a state of profound emaciation. On examination no trace of the pancreas could be found. M. Bernard believes that, hav-

ing made too large an opening between the duodenum and the pancreatic duct, the bile penetrated into the pancreas, and produced the "digestion" of that organ.—*Gaz. Méd.*, March 9.

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French Academy Prizes.—The French Academy of Sciences have awarded the following prizes and "encouragements":—

To M. Porta, a prize of 2000 francs for his Researches on the Changes produced in Arteries by the Ligature and Torsion. The reporters say that one is astonished at the prodigious number of dissections, in cases of human aneurism, which M. Porta has made for the purpose of rendering his great work strictly practical; and there is scarcely a single point of importance on which his labours have not thrown some light. Among the principal may be noticed—"the proof of the fact (already known), that new vessels are formed after the ligature of a large artery, for the purpose of establishing a collateral circulation—the demonstration that aneurism may be re-produced after apparent cure, and this by means of an active collateral circulation—a most minute description of this collateral circulation after ligature of all the chief arteries—and, finally, experimental researches on the circulation in the brain through the vertebral or carotid arteries, taken singly."

To MM. Bibra and Gheist, of Nuremberg, a prize of 1000 francs for their work on Phosphoric Necrosis.

To M. Mandl, an encouragement of 1000 francs for his work on Microscopic Anatomy.

To MM. Becquerel and Rodier, an encouragement of 1000 francs for their Researches on the Composition of the Blood in Health and Disease.

"Encouragements" of 1000 francs also to M. Landouzy for his work on Hysteria, and to M. Larroque for his Treatise on Typhoid Fever.

To M. Bernard, a prize for his discovery of the function of the pancreas in the act of digestion.

To M. Lebert, a recompense of 1800 francs for his Treatise on Tubercle and Scrofula; M. Roussell one of 1500 francs for his work on Pellagra; M. Pravas one of 1500 francs for his Treatise on Congenital Lacerations of Femur; M. Roger one of 1200 francs for his Researches on the Animal Heat of Children in Health and Disease;

and one of 1200 francs to M. Bourguignon for his work on Itch.

The Manesi prize of 1500 francs was awarded to M. Bouchut for the best Memoir on Apparent Deaths.

Calculus originating in Fracture of the Spine.—Dr. McDonnell related to the Pathological Society of Dublin an example of this.

Assistant Surgeons in the British Navy.—We are rejoiced to learn that a motion has passed the House of Commons, declaring that the accommodation provided for the assistant surgeons in the British vessels of war is insufficient for securing the full benefit of their professional services. British naval assistant surgeons will, therefore, be relieved in future from the grievances and annoyances to which they were constantly exposed, and will henceforth have the satisfaction of occupying a position, which, by rank and education, they are entitled to hold, as members of a learned profession, and as officers and gentlemen.

Suppression of the French Schools for Military Surgeons.—A most unexpected and absolute measure has just been taken by the President of the French Republic. From motives of economy, and alleged irregularities of the pupils, the medical schools for military surgeons, situated respectively in Lille, Strasburg, and Metz, and the school called "of improvement," at the Val de Grâce, in Paris, have been unceremoniously and suddenly suppressed. The army is henceforth to be supplied by the faculties. Measures of this description are, independently of politics, of a very injudicious description; violent changes work badly. The medical press of Paris are indignant at the occurrence.

M. Ricord's election at the Academy of Medicine of Paris.—It is with great satisfaction that we announce the tardy justice which has at last been rendered to M. Ricord, whose excellent lectures we published in this journal. M. Ricord had repeatedly presented himself as candidate for the honour of a seat in the Academy of Medicine, but constantly failed, as men who start new doctrines generally do, when they knock at the door of a society composed of members who, for the most part, advocate opposite

views. Perseverance has, however, gained the day; and out of 97 votes, M. Ricord obtained at once a considerable majority, viz., 57; M. Larrey had 32; M. Gosselin, 5; and M. Maisonneuve, 1.

Academy of Medicine of Paris.—Two vacancies have lately been filled up in that learned body. They occurred in the sections of pharmacy and medicine respectively. In the first section, the election fell upon M. Bouchardat, pharmacien-in-chief to the Hotel Dieu; and in the second, upon M. Michel Lévy, chief physician to the military hospital of Val de Grâce.

Copper in the Hair of a Workman using that Metal.—M. CHEVALLIER, jun., has lately analyzed the hair of copper-workers which had turned quite greenish, and he has found that the copper was not only deposited on the surface of the hair, but that it had penetrated into its substance. The hair treated by acetic or nitric acid yields the copper it contains, and by a microscopic examination it is seen that the metal has actually penetrated the substance of the hair. It is to be regretted that M. Chevallier does not say in what state the copper is found in such cases.

Obituary Record.—Died, April 9th, 1850, WILLIAM PROUT, M.D., F.R.S., at the advanced age of — years.

—, in Paris, on the 4th of March last, in the 70th year of his age, M. MARJOLIN, one of the oldest and most respectable surgeons of the French metropolis. He was Professor of Surgery to the Faculty of Medicine, Honorary Chief Surgeon to the Hôpital Beaujon, member of the Academy of Medicine, and officer of the Legion of Honour.

—, at Paris, in May last, M. CAPURON, formerly Professor of Midwifery at the Faculty of Medicine, at the advanced age of 83 years.

—, suddenly, in a railway carriage, on his way to England, M. DESCROLARY DE BLAINVILLE, one of the most celebrated Naturalists of the day, in the 72d year of his age. M. B. was the successor of Cuvier in the Chair of Comparative Anatomy in the Garden of Plants.

—, at Paris, in May, M. GAY-LUSSAC, one of the most celebrated chemists of the French school.